Sowing + Reaping

SOWING AND REAPING.

Gal.6:7 Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap.

Intro. We have just past thru our sowing time and are already entering our reaping time. Blossoms are set and the fruit is ripening. Grain is turning yellow and will soon have to be cut. The country everywhere looks prosperous and beautiful, unusually so this year,it seems to me.

And what a variety of fruits and grains and vegetables we grow here in California!

And how wisely and seriously our growers do their sowing and planting.. The very best of seed is none too good for them. The very choicest of trees And the most thoro and careful looking after them. Growers understand the fundamental law of nature- "As a man soweth so shall he also reap."

But we humans are none the less subject to this law of sowing and reaping than are our flowers and trees and grasses. Our ~~human~~ lives are largely a matter of sowing and reaping. In our great cities where congestio of population is so dense that practically nothing else but humans can live, we see sowing and reaping going on all the year around. Every person, whether he lives in the country, town or city,is a sower, scattering seed an sowing as he goes along thru life. The question is, what shall the harvest be? When we get our barns of ambitio filled what are we going to have to show for our effort in life? When God requires of us our soul as well as ou barns and goods, what is there going to be left?

I. Some people sow regardless of tomorrow and eternity, regardless od God and their ~~fellow men~~ neighbors.

1. Here is a man determined to get rich no matter how. He will even be a boot-legger to do it. He knows tha the man who comes to him to buy his stuff has a family to support that needs every cent he can earn; but what does that matter? he needs money and must have it, and so he takes it, regardless. The more stuff he sells the les food and shoes and clothing for women and children. The more stuff he sells the more hell and crime and misery, but he must have his gold, he must have his money. Then comes the harvest. He puts in his sickle, he gathers in his crop. And what does he get? sheaves, sheaves, nothi but sheaves! He gathers, his conscience gathers, his family gathers. His soul gathers . He reaps as he sowed He sowed present and eternal woes to others, he now

2. reaps ~~woe and~~ present and eternal woes unto himself.

2. Here is another man determined to make money regardless. But he is not going to be a law-breaker like the boot-legger. He is going to be a respectable citizen and conduct hisnaffairs well within the law. But he must have money, and gold he is going to get, lots of it and quick.

He organizes a company and sells stock. He sells his stock to thousands of people who buy it out of their hard-earned savings of many years. He even goes to his friends and has his agents go to their personal friends to sell them the stock. But the company fails and the stock proves worthless.. He has his money and he is well within the law, but the thousands of buyers of his stock have nothing. Then comes the harvest. Alas, he,too, has filled his barns with worthless stuff, neither has he anything than just the perishables of life. His type of character the whole world despises! His soul is not fit for eternal living! He has not made the world one whit better for his having lived in it.

3. Here is another man sowing. A fine looking type of young man. Full of pep and always smiling. He is sowin to have a good time. He works and eats and sleeps only fo the pleasures of life. Altho a member of the church he must sow his wild oats and get all the experience there is is life for him. Altho working in a good position or in a good business of his own, the product of his work is jus to enable him to joy-ride thru life. Then comes the harves He is not promoted in his position and after a few years he must take a lesser place at a reduced salary. His business does not flourish and after a few years he must sell out and go to clerking in somebody else's store. His drea of later settling down to enjoy a happy family life in a c comfortable home does not materialize. Old age holds nothing for him. The harvest of many an old man is simply, "My wasted youth" and "My lost opportunities" What a gathering for a soul after years of living-

"Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these, it might have been".

II. But it is possible to sow to the good, to the lastin good also, and without losing any of the real pleasures of life. God wants his children to be happy, God wants us all to have a good time, the very best possible, but not in such a way as to reap a harvesst of nothing but weeds.

The farmer and orchardist has to discriminate and choose his seed and plantings to the very best advantage of the conditions that govenn him- his soil, or weather conditions the market for his products, the shipping facilities, and many other matters.

It stands to reason that a man planning for the harvest of his own personal life should be just as careful and discriminatory as the farmer and grower.

The great source of all life whose law and order governs every man must be borne in mind. No man can plan his life wisely and to the best advantage without taking into consideration his Maker, God.

Then there is Home to be considered. Home is not merely part of the man, something for him to pssess, but the man is a part of the home into which he must fit himself and in which he must do his part and carry his share of the burden.

The consideration of others is another determining factor that should influence every thotful man in the planning of his life. The state and society and community largely determine the conditions which should govern his life and conduct. Every man is his brother's keeper and neighbor to somebody else.

There ~~is also~~ are other vital factors to be dealt with by the man who would sow wisely. There is the matter of his health. How foolish to plan any kind of a harvest without regard for personal health!

His own education and personal efficiency demand his constant attention. The neglect of these may defeat his very life purpose. In such a progressive time as ours it behooves a man to keep abreast of the times.

The only lasting things a man leaves behind when he goes is his own life and character, and these are the only things he takes with him into eternity. His character therefore should be to him a paramount consideration at all times. And his character is largely determined by his conduct, which in turn is determined by the set of principles he holds and by his habits. To be honest and true, trustworthy and dependable should characterize every seed of a man's planting. Industry and thrift, faithfulness and perseverence and many other such principles must be held and practiced if a man would reap his richest harvest in life.

Living on such a basis, a man sows for himself such seed as will reap for him in later years a harvest filled with the greatest possible riches and satisfaction and happiness.